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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Interagency Working Group on Soviet Covert Action and
Political Deception*Liaison*

FROM:

Chief, Covert Action Staff/IAD
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EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

4 February 1981

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. D/FBIS
1013 Key Bldg.

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This matter was discussed in
substance with C/FBIS/USSR
BranchFORM
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 FEB 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research,
State Department
Associate Director for Programs, ICA
Assistant Director, Intelligence Division, FBI
Deputy Under Secretary for Policy Review, DoD
Deputy Assistant Director for Security
Services, DIA
Vice Director for Foreign Intelligence, DIA
Chief, National Security Agency/Q32
Director, National Foreign Assessments
Center, CIA
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information
Service, CIA ✓
Director, Office of Technical Services, CIA

FROM:

Chief, Covert Action Staff/CIA

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SUBJECT:

Interagency Working Group on Soviet Covert
Action and Political Deception

1. For some years there has been an Interagency Working Group on Camouflage, Concealment and Deception, which has concerned itself primarily with the problems of Soviet deceptive techniques in the military and communication fields. From the work of this committee and other recent analysis, it appears that the Soviet Union has markedly stepped up its activities in the political deception and covert action areas. The testimony of CIA/DDO before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in February, 1980 cited some of this Soviet activity. We have become particularly concerned with the frequency and thrust of Soviet forgeries of US Government documents. There appears to be a need for interagency discussion of these matters and for coordinated action to thwart or at least mitigate Soviet actions detrimental to USG foreign policy and security interests.

2. The DDCI, therefore, decided on 16 January 1981 to establish an Interagency Working Group on Soviet Covert Action

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SUBJECT: Interagency Working Group on Soviet Covert Action and Political Deception

and Political Deception to be chaired by the Chief of CIA's Covert Action Staff as the DCI's designated representative. The following Departments/Agencies are to be represented on the working group: CIA, State, ICA, FBI, and DoD. We envisage this group meeting periodically to exchange information and ideas on Soviet covert action, propaganda, and subversion and to coordinate interagency responses (offensive and defensive) to this harmful Soviet activity. This group and the CCD group, since they will be working on separate but related activities, will exchange minutes and reports and meet together occasionally as necessary when their work converges. As to the level of representation in the Soviet Covert Action and Deception Working Group, we would suggest that the designated officer have substantive knowledge of Soviet activities in this field and that he also be sufficiently senior so that he can provide initial coordination and agreement of his Department/Agency as to actions to be undertaken to counter Soviet activities. Due to limitations of space, it is requested that no more than two officers from your office be designated to attend meetings.

3. The first meeting of the Interagency Working Group on Soviet Covert Action and Political Deception will be held in room 3D03 of the CIA Headquarters at 1030 hours on Friday, 13 February 1981. This will be an organizational meeting. We will provide a general assessment of the current state of Soviet covert action and related issues as an update on the DDO's testimony before HPSCI, which will provide the basis of substantive discussion during the meeting.

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Att: DDO Testimony to HPSCI

IAD/CAS/SOX

Distribution:

- 1 - Ea addressee (10)
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